



VMI General Assembly

Thursday, 17.12.2020 17:00

Present:

Matilda Backendal
Tobias Grosser (Guest)
Michael Hoffman
Julia Hörrmann
Reza Sefidgar
Tomas Hruz
Karel Kubicek
Tobias Klenze
Anu Unnikrishnan
Alexander Viand
Karl Wüst
Jiamin Zhu

Agenda

1. Welcome by VMI president Alexander Viand
2. Election of the scrutineer and keeper of the minutes
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Adoption of the protocol of the last General Assembly
5. Reports on the activities of the VMI in 2020
6. Announcement of VMI plans 2021.
7. Adoption of the budget for 2021
8. Elections
 - 8.1. President and vice-president, secretary, treasurer
 - 8.2. Representatives in the Department Conference
 - 8.3. Representatives in the Studies Committee
 - 8.4. Auditors for 2021
9. AOB

Minutes

- 1) Alexander Viand opened the proceedings with a general welcome.
- 2) Karel Kubicek is elected scrutineer and keeper of minutes unanimously.
- 3) Vote for the adoption of the agenda: accepted with 9 for and 1 abstention
- 4) Vote for the adoption of the protocol of the last GA: accepted with 9 for and 1 abstention
- 5) Alexander Viand summarizes the activities of VMI in 2020:
VMI's year kicked off strong with a series of talks, seminars, and workshops from our new Mental Strength (Well Being & Scientific Excellence) programme. However, this was soon overshadowed by the Covid19 pandemic that significantly reduced our ability to fulfil our mission of bringing people together.

Sadly, the situation and ETH restrictions never relaxed far enough to allow us to conduct our annual summer retreat or many of the workshops we had planned. Nevertheless, we adapted some of our events to the new situation, e.g. virtual talks and board game nights and were able to conduct a physical "Welcome to D-INFK" event during the summer, albeit in a modified form. There, we also started our very first "Buddy System", forming small groups of 6-12 new members and 1-2 more experienced members to facilitate the onboarding process.

Politically, VMI maintained its representation on the committees of the department even as those committees switched to virtual meetings and continued to provide feedback on a variety of consultations. We also saw some of the consultations of the previous year produce results, with new regulations on doctoral studies and employment being released. We look forward to carefully watching how ETH and our department implement these into practice as they start to become active next year.

Julia Hörrman provides an update on the AVETH diversity meeting and future plans

- 6) Announcements of VMI plans 2021

Alexander Viand summarizes plan for the next year:

While we hope for a quick recovery from the current situation, a return to indoor in-person events seems unlikely for the spring term. Therefore, our short-term preparations focus on bringing high-quality virtual events to our members. We remain careful but optimistic and are expecting a return to physical events for the summer & fall of the next year. We especially hope to find a way to conduct our summer retreat next year. We also want to build upon our experiences with the Buddy System this year and expand on this in 2021. Since most of the Mental Strength programme scheduled for this year had to be cancelled, one of our top priorities is to find ways to start this programme up again. Noticing how difficult it is to maintain such a programme using volunteers alone, we are looking for someone external to support us in the coordination role.

7) Adoption of the budget for 2021

Alexander Viand presents the budget proposal (see GA presentation)

Tobias Klenze & Julia Hörrmann ask for clarification on the 3000 CHF for coordination of the mental strength initiative.

Alexander Viand replies that the idea is to find one external coordinator (ideally somebody with coaching/workshop experience), however the individual workshops are planned to be hosted by a larger group of people (most likely including the coordinator, too).

The budget is accepted unanimously.

8) Elections

Matilda Backendal and Anu Unnikrishnan introduce themselves.

Karl Wüst will be stepping down from the studies committee after their first session next year

Reza Sefidgar kindly volunteers as auditor/revisor.

The board is elected with 10 votes for and 1 abstention.

9) A.O.B.

AVETH is looking for a volunteer for an ETH consultation on “guests at ETH”.

Michael Hoffmann will present VMI/D-INFK in this process.

Zurich, 18.12.2020